

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 AGR-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-05 LAB-01 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-02

STR-01 TRSE-00 SWF-01 CIEP-01 FRB-01 OMB-01 L-02 SS-15

NSC-05 /054 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7718

FOR EB/FTD

PASS JIRICH, BODNER AND BLACKMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, KS

SUBJECT: ROK/US BILATERAL TEXTILE UNDERSTANDINGS

1. SMITH AND GAREL MET MORNING NOV 18 WITH KIM DONG WHIE AND OTHER ROKG OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SERIOUS TECHNICAL ERRORS INVOLVING KNIT SUITS AND COATS PRESENTED REFTEL. ROKG INDICATED IT PERFECTLY AWARE OF EFFECTS OF THESE CHANGES AND HAD NO INTENTION OF ANY CORRECTIONS WITHOUT QUID PRO QUO. THOUGH ADMITTING RESULT DEPARTED FROM AGREEMENT OF HEADS OF DELS THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INCREASES IN THESE TWO SENSITIVE AREAS, ROKG SAID ERROR WAS ON U.S. SIDE ONLY.

2. US DEL THEN POINTED OUT THAT TECHNICAL ERRORS IN ANNEXES RESULTED IN ABOUT 18 CATEGORIES HAVING CHANGED CONVERSION FACTORS BY BEING LISTED IN "UNITS" RATHER THAN DOZENS; IF NOT CORRECTED THIS COULD CUT BACK PERMITTED TRADE BY 92 PERCENT IN THESE CATEGORIES INCLUDING 219 AND 221.

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3. AFTER PERIOD OF HECTIC AND FRANTIC CONSTERNATION, ROK INDICATED IT WOULD ENTERTAIN U.S. PROPOSAL FOR SOLUTION OF PROBLEM. US DEL REPLIED THAT U.S. PROPOSAL ALREADY MADE, I.E, ALL THESE TECHNICAL ERRORS SHOULD BE CORRECTED IMMEDIATELY, THAT U.S. DID NOT REGARD ANY OF THE ERRORS SUBJECT TO RENEGOTIATION, AND THAT IF ROKG UNWILLING TO CORRECT ERRORS REFTEL, THEN U.S. UNWILLING CORRECT ERRORS RE UNITS.

4. KIM THEN ASKED SMITH PRIVATELY IF U.S. SERIOUS IN STICKING TO UNITS INTERPRETATION AND SMITH REPLIED WE WERE MOST SERIOUS AND WOULD STICK TO THAT INTERPRETATION AS LONG AS ROKG INSISTED ON 224 ERROR. KIM GREATLY DISMAYED.

5. KIM ALSO INDICATED VERY STRONGLY TO SMITH THAT HE WANTED TO WORK OUT SOME SORT OF DEAL, IMPLYING A PROPOSAL FROM U.S. GIVING INCREASE IN 224 KNIT SUITS. SMITH REPEATED THAT WE WERE NOT HERE TO RENEGOTIATE TERMS AND THAT WE NOT IN ANY POSITION CONSIDER ANY INCREASE. KIM ASKED WHEN U.S. DEL LEAVING AND HE INFORMED MORNING NOVEMBER 19.

6. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE OR UNLESS ROKG AGREES TO CORRECT ALL ERRORS, SMITH AND GAREL INTEND TO LEAVE AS SCHEDULED. WE RECOMMEND U.S. STAND FIRM ON ABOVE POSITION AS ROKG INSISTENCE OF 224 ERROR CLEARLY VIOLATES UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED BETWEEN KIM AND JURICH.

7. SMITH AND GAREL AT SEOUL TOKYU HOTEL, ROOMS 1709 AND 1710.
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